

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO. 00-8-33806

COUNTRY Germany/Spain

SUBJECT Otto Skorzeny

PLACE ACQUIRED Madrid

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE Sep to Dec 50

DATE OF INFORMATION Sep to Dec 50

CD NO.

CASE 7146  
DATE DISTR. 6 Jun 1951

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

GRADING OF SOURCE BY OFFICE OF ORIGIN						SOURCE'S OPINION OF CONTENT					
COMPLETELY RELIABLE	USUALLY RELIABLE	FAIRLY RELIABLE	NOT USUALLY RELIABLE	NOT RELIABLE	CANNOT BE JUDGED	TRUE	PROBABLY TRUE	POSSIBLY TRUE	DOUBTFUL	PROBABLY FALSE	CANNOT BE JUDGED
A	B	C	D	E	F	1	2	3	4	5	6

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES WITHIN THE MEANING OF THE ESPIONAGE ACT OF U. S. C. 51 AND 52, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR THE REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO ANY PERSON TO WHOM UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE US citizen, formerly head of a [ US organization ] who, since World War II has been a consultant to various foreign governments on electronic landing and approach systems for airfields. A frequent visitor to Spain where he served the Air Ministry as an advisor, he last returned from there in December 1950.

1. I was introduced to Skorzeny in Madrid sometime around 1 Oct 50. Although I made no effort to forward the acquaintance, he called at my apartment about two weeks later. He was, I believe, looking for a better apartment for himself, and I think that he also had the idea that I might be helpful to him in several matters in which he was interested in the US.
2. He is living in Madrid at the present time with a German woman about 38 or 40 whose name is Ilse, Countess Finckenstein. Their address is Calle Lopez de Hoyas, 70. The Countess is a very attractive and highly intelligent woman. I believe that she had a fairly high position in the German Intelligence during the last war. I understand that she spent a considerable time in the UK just prior to the outbreak of hostilities in the interest of the intelligence service.
3. Skorzeny is conducting a business in Madrid chiefly for the development of solar heat for use in heating houses and hot water in Spain. I do not think this is a front, but that he is really in earnest about the business. I believe he also has some agencies for German firms. The only one I can remember is one for a manufacturer of pipe scaffolding for use in building construction. He is not using his own name, but is going under the alias shown on his business card which is reproduced here.

Rolf Steinbauer  
Ingeniero Industrial  
Alcala, 29  
Telef 31 72 62 Madrid

4. I believe Skorzeny came to Spain about August 1950, having moved there from Paris because of his fear of Communist reprisals. He claimed that five attempts had been made on his life since the end of the war. He also told me that on infrequent trips to Germany he could be reached at c/o Finckenstein, Hotel Zuflucht, Fremdenstadt/Schwarzwald, French Zone. I understood that he came to Spain at the instance of a high ranking Spanish general. I believe the Spanish Army is giving some sort of help such as allowing him commissary privileges and seeing that he has a proper place to live. I do not believe, however, that he is engaged in any sort of underground activity either with the Spanish or on his own behalf.

CLASSIFICATION CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
ARMY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐  
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒  
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release  
By the Central Intelligence Agency

Date: 2001/2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

# BEST AVAILABLE COPY

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY

00-B-33806

-2-

5. I found Skorzeny extremely egotistical but not too intelligent. I felt that the brains required for any business he might engage in would be furnished by the Countess. He fully expects someday to be a ruling power in Germany and talks about his many influential friends, including Dr Schacht, the Prince of Hesse and Messerschmidt. He told me that very near the end of the war when he was hiding in the mountains of Bavaria trying to make up his mind what to do, he was approached by some high ranking Germans who stated they had a number of brand new airplanes and wanted him to fly eight tons of gold to Argentina. He and the Countess thought it over and decided finally that the best thing for him to do was to give himself up and stand trial. He claimed that he would have been hanged as a war criminal if it had not been for the testimony of a couple of British citizens and his American defense lawyer, whose name I did not recall. Skorzeny feels tremendously indebted to him.
6. He asked me to call on E. P. Dutton & Co, the publishers of his book, to try and arrange a better collection for his royalties which are now being collected through some French nationals who take a big cut of it before sending the balance to him. I did call on Dutton on my return to the US about this matter. He also asked me to try and interest US businessmen in a project in Portuguese East Africa which requires about US\$500,000. I made some perfunctory inquiries in the office of a large US company in Paris, but they did not think much of the matter and I dropped it. I have not heard from Skorzeny since my return to the US.
7. Another thing which was foremost in his mind was his desire for me to put him in touch with the proper US authorities to see if he could get some assistance toward further organizing a German group which he professed to control. He said that all the money he had received as royalties on his book had been sent to Germany to keep the organization going. He claimed, with great sincerity, that this group would form a hard core of resistance in case of an invasion of Germany by the USSR, which, incidentally, he had looked for last Fall. He stated that these Germans would certainly be the first people to be taken by the Soviets and that they would undoubtedly be killed or enslaved. He was anxious to get them organized so that in case of hostilities they could escape from Germany and organize as soon as possible to fight on behalf of the Allies. He did not give me any indication of who or where these men are. I did not press the matter to any extent.
8. Skorzeny speaks English fairly well but does not speak Spanish with any fluency. The Countess speaks both English and Spanish very well. Skorzeny is a magnificent physical specimen and appeared to be in the best of health and condition. It is my impression that his brain power is not too great, although he is undoubtedly a man of tremendous courage with sufficient intelligence to follow out orders. I believe, however, that that is as far as it goes.

-end-

CONFIDENTIAL/US OFFICIALS ONLY